

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A retaining member is provided and attached to a bevel gear in order to allow the bevel gear to be attached, prior to assembly, to a bearing adapter. The retaining member is provided with first and second protuberances that extend radially outwardly from diametrically opposite positions on the retaining member so that the protuberances can be inserted through first and second slots in a generally cylindrical member, or bearing adapter, during the assembly of individual components to form a subassembly. Since the bearing adapter is attached to a bearing carrier, misalignment of the protuberances and the slots allow the bevel gear and several other assorted components to be retained in contact with the bearing carrier so that the components are not free to move in axial directions away from each other to allow separation of these components. Since the individual components are retained in axial positions relative to each other and relative to the bearing carrier, insertion of this subassembly into a gearcase makes the assembly much easier than would otherwise be possible.